

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

at a computer system, receiving a first order command from a first party, in which the first order command indicates ~~that a spread market should be made, in which the spread market including a first spread with which to make a first market for a financial instrument may be made and includes a second spread at with which to make a second market for the financial instrument may be made,~~ and in which the first order command includes an acceptance by the first party to participate in the first market at if a second party accepts the first spread and an acceptance by the first party to make a the second market at the second spread if the second party accepts the command second spread;

~~transmitting information about the spread market to the second party; and~~

at the computer system, receiving a second command from the second party, in which the second command comprises at least one of an acceptance of the first spread and an acceptance of the second spread;

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread, requiring the first party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the first spread through the first market, and

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread, requiring the second party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the second spread through the second market.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 ~~in which:~~

wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and

further comprising the step of requiring the first party to submit the third command ~~includes~~ blocking the first party from participating in a market if the third command indicating at

least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument ~~through the first market~~ is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~28~~ 29, ~~in which:~~
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising the step of requiring the first party to submit the third command
~~includes~~ charging a fee to the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and
a sell of the financial instrument ~~through the first market~~ is not received from the first party
within a limited period of time.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~in which:~~
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread and
further comprising the step of requiring the first party to submit the third command
~~includes~~ automatically entering a default trading command from the first party if the third
command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the first
market is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the first spread and the
second spread are the same.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command
comprises the acceptance of the first spread and the method further comprises:
requiring the second party to submit a fourth command indicating that the first market for
the financial instrument should be made with the first spread.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, in which the fourth command
includes an indication of a price around which the first market is should be made.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein ~~in which~~:
the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread; and
requiring the second party to submit the third command includes charging a fee to the second party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes
automatically entering a default trading command from the second party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the tradeable item through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes blocking the second party from participating in a market if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, in which the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread and the method further comprises:
requiring the first party to submit a fourth command indicating that the second market for the financial instrument should be made using the second spread.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, in which the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the second market should be made.

40. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by one or more computers, cause one or more computer systems to perform a [[the]] method comprising the steps of claim 28

receiving a first order from a first party, in which the first order indicates a first spread with which to make a market for a financial instrument and a second spread at which to make a market for the financial instrument, and in which the first order includes an acceptance by the first party to participate in the market at the first spread and an acceptance by the first party to make a market at the second spread if the second party accepts the command; and

at the computer system, receiving a second command from the second party, in which the second command comprises at least one of an acceptance of the first spread and an acceptance of the second spread;

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread, requiring the first party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the first spread, and

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread, requiring the second party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument at a price reflecting the second spread.

41. (new) The computer readable memory of claim 40 :

wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to block the first party from participating in a market if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

42. (new) The computer readable memory of claim 40:

wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to charge a fee to the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

43. (new) The computer readable memory of claim 40:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to automatically enter a default trading command from the first party if the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the first market is not received from the first party within a limited period of time.

44. (new) The computer readable memory of claim 40, wherein the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the first market should be made.

45. (new) The computer readable memory of claim 40:
wherein the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread; and
further comprising instructions to cause the computer(s) to require the first party to submit a fourth command indicating that the second market for the financial instrument should be made using the second spread.

46. (new) The computer readable memory of claim 40, wherein:
the fourth command includes an indication of a price around which the second market should be made.